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**SUPPLEMENT TO
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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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COUNTRY **East Germany****REPORT**TOPIC **The Organizational Setup of the Soviet Air Force**

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EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED **10 November 1953**REFERENCES

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PAGES **3** ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) REMARKS This is UNEVALUATED Information organizational setup of the Soviet Air Force

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1. A bomber corps consists of 2 or 3 bomber divisions. Each bomber division consists of 3 bomber regiments and has an airfield net and 3 air technical battalions for supply. Each bomber regiment consists of 3 bomber squadrons, has an airfield and is supplied by one air technical battalion. Each bomber squadron consists of 2 or 3 flights, each bomber flight of 3 or 4 aircraft.
2. The organizational setup of fighters, ground attack and reconnaissance units is approximately that of the bombers. 25X1
3. The Air Army consists of 3 air corps, each air corps of 3 air divisions, each air division of 3 air regiments, each air regiment of 3 squadrons, each squadron of 3 flights, each with 4 fighters, 4 GA aircraft or 3 bombers respectively. The flight of 4 aircraft is organized in two elements of two. ² Each air army also has two air divisions for special purposes and two air regiments for special purposes in addition to these air units. They are available to the air army for special operations, e.g. reconnaissance, transportation, night flying, ground attacks, nuisance raids. ³ 25X1
4. The air regions include the administration, technical and air technical schools and all types of pilot schools and thus comprise the entire field of training. Operational units are not subordinated to the air regions. ⁴ 25X1
5. In peace times the ground and air forces are subordinated to the Minister of War, who submits his orders to the individual service branches of the ground forces via the general staff. Orders to the air force branches are directed via the main staff. The navy is subordinated to the Chief of the Naval Forces who also ranks as minister. In peace times the Minister of War and the Minister of the Naval Forces operate independently from each other and their activities are coordinated by the government, i.e. the Council of Ministers. ⁵ 25X1
6. In war times, the land and naval forces are subordinated to the Supreme Commander who is in charge of the all armed forces. The Supreme Commander is elected by the Council of Ministers. ⁶

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7. **Command of the Air Forces.**
The Minister of War, i.e. the Commander in Charge of Ground and Air Forces is not authorized to give orders personally to each individual unit. Directions are to be given to the command of the air forces to guarantee correct operation and a control of entire air force. The Minister of War submits his orders to the airborne troops, the observation department and, for all air units, to the Headquarters of the air force. This staff includes, among others, the deputy chief of the bomber units, the deputy chief of the GA units, the deputy chief of the fighter units, the chief engineer in charge of technical and air technical supply, the deputy chief of operations, the deputy chief of air technical schools and the deputy chief of aviation schools. 7
8. **Industry.**
The organization of the technical supply system requires close cooperation with the war industry and, in particular, the aircraft industry.
9. **Operational Staff of the Air Forces:**
The operational staff of the air forces includes the Minister of War with general staff, the Headquarters of the Air Force with small staff, the airborne troops, the observation department, supply, and the aircraft industry. 8
1. **Comment.** This information with regard to some basic points, especially the air defense forces (FWO) and the long range bomber units (DA) essentially deviates from previous information on the organizational setup of the Soviet Air Force. FWO and DA were probably not mentioned in the VPL training material for security reasons, restricting the VPL instruction to the organization of the army air forces. 25X1
2. **Comment.** This organizational frame is considered to be merely an example which only in some points corresponds with the actual present organization of, for instance, the 24th Air Army. Including the bomber corps which had been transferred in early July 1953, the 24th Air Army has four air corps instead of three. The GA corps and the bomber corps have two divisions each instead of three. The individual regiments of the 24th Air Army do not have the authorized number of aircraft given for a regiment by the present report. This, however, is probably due to the reequipment with jet aircraft. 25X1
3. **Comment.** The air divisions for special purposes are presumably composed of reconnaissance and transport units and also of night GA units which the Soviets had often used for interception and for the supply of partisans during the World War II. Units of this type have so far not been observed with the 4th, the 24th and the 59th Air Armies. They are probably only assigned to air armies fighting at the front in case of war. 25X1
4. **Comment.** The designation "air region" which is reported for the first time might possibly be identical to military districts. An air force staff at the district headquarters of the military commander is possibly concerned with the administration. The air regions are in charge of the training and the supply of young flying and technical personnel. The operational units, i.e. air armies and air corps, in the inner USSR which had, so far, been subordinated to the so-called commander of the Air Forces in the military district headquarters, are now probably assigned directly to the headquarters of the Air Force. 25X1
5. **Comment.** Main staff refers to the general staff of the Headquarters of the Air Force, which receives orders from the Ministry of Defense (previously Ministry of War. After Stalin's death, the navy which had been independent was also subordinated to the Ministry of Defense. 25X1
6. **Comment.** It has become known that, in case of war, the Council of Ministers will be replaced by a smaller board, called the State Committee for Defense, and that the Headquarters of the Supreme Command for strategic planning will be attached to this board. 25X1

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7. [REDACTED] Comment. According to previous information, the branches of the Air Force subordinate to the Ministry of War included: 25X1
- a. The air troops of the army, under the command of the Headquarters of the Air Force.
 - b. The air defense forces, under the command of the FWO main administration.
 - c. The long range bombers, commanded by the DA main administration.
 - d. Airborne troops, commanded by the main administration for airborne forces.
- The FWO and DA forces are not mentioned in the present report. This may indicate that they are no longer commanded directly by the Minister of Defense and that the air defense and the long range bomber forces are commanded directly by the Headquarters of the Air Force. The air observation and early warning service (WNOS) and the airborne forces are still subordinate to the Ministry of Defense. The reported organization of the Headquarters of the Air Force largely corresponds with available information.
8. [REDACTED] Comment. According to the present report, the representatives of the service branches referred to in paragraph 9 belong to the Air Force Operations Staff, functioning as highest agency for air force matters. The supply is probably represented by the Headquarters of Rear Services. The fact that the FWO and DA are not listed as departments of the air force supports the assumption that they are subordinated to the Headquarters of the Air Force. 25X1

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